

REMARKS

Prior to entry of the present Amendment, claims 1-10 and 13 were pending, with claims 11-12 and 14-26 having previously been withdrawn. In the present Amendment, claims 2-3, 6-10 and 13 are amended, new claims 27-36 are added, and claims 1, 5, 11-12 and 14-26 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants respectfully submit that, as discussed below in more detail, pending claims 2-4, 6-10, 13 and 27-34 are allowable and that the application is in a condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 7-9 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and in independent form.

Newly-independent claim 7 is allowable dependent claim 7 rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as discussed below, and in independent form. Accordingly, newly-independent claim 7 is allowable. Dependent claims 2-4, 10 and 13 now depend from independent claim 7 and are allowable for at least the same and other independent reasons.

Newly-independent claim 8 is allowable dependent claim 8 rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as discussed below, and in independent form. Accordingly, newly-independent claim 8 is allowable. New dependent claims 27-31, which generally correspond to dependent claims 2-4, 10 and 13, respectively, depend from independent claim 8 and are allowable for at least the same and other independent reasons.

Newly-independent claim 9 is allowable dependent claim 9 rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as discussed below, and in independent form. Accordingly, newly-independent claim 9 is allowable. New dependent claims 32-36, which generally correspond to dependent claims 2-4, 10 and 13, respectively, depend from independent claim 9 and are allowable for at least the same and other independent reasons.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 3-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner indicated that the terms "the parts" (in claim 3) and "its back" (in

claim 5) lack antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claim 3 and included amended language new claims 28 and 33 to provide proper antecedent basis for the identified term from claim 3. Applicants have included amended language in newly-independent claims 7-9 to provide proper antecedent basis for the identified term from claim 5. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now definite and request reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections under the Prior Art

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,118,825 (“Hoebrechts”). Also, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-4 and 10 as being anticipated by German Patent Document No. DE 10036135 (“Rezzonico”). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 10 as being anticipated by PCT Patent Application Publication No. WO 02/40329 (“Breesch”). Finally, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Rezzonico.

Claims 1 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejections moot with respect to these claims. Claims 2-4, 6, 10 and 13 now depend from allowable newly-independent claim 7. Applicants reserve the right to re-present the rejected claims and to address the Examiner’s rejections in a continuation application.

Withdrawn Claims

Applicants reserve the right to present withdrawn and now cancelled claims 11-12 and 14-26 and similar claims in one or more divisional applications.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 2-4, 6-10, 13 and 27-36.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours at the below-identified telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward R. Lawson Jr./

Edward R. Lawson Jr.
Reg. No. 41,931

File No. 022862-1039
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
100 East Wisconsin Avenue
Suite 3300
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4108
414.271.6560